

October 03, 2007

Congressman Akin Decries Detention of Monks and Protesters in  
Burma

Washington, DC- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) today sent letters to the President of China, the Honorable Hu Jintao, and the Prime Minister of India, the Honorable Dr. Manmohan Singh regarding recent human rights abuses in Burma. In the letters Akin suggests that both China and India are major players in the region economically and that their importation of natural gas provides a significant revenue stream to the Burmese government.

The letters include the following statement:

“Unfortunately, the Burmese government has recently taken actions against its own citizens which are nothing short of despicable. The ruling junta has killed and detained an unknown number of Buddhist monks and ordinary citizens who were peaceably demonstrating their opposition to the current regime. These actions clearly violated numerous sections of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including articles 9, 13, 18, 19 and 20. These actions are also in clear violation of Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which your nation ratified.”

In his letter to China’s President, Akin stated that:

“It is clear that it is in your nation’s best interest to intervene in this situation. Any instability in the region hurts economic growth and could become a dark cloud hanging over the preparations for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. As such, I ask you to do all in your power to change the situation in Burma for the better, including ceasing to purchase Burmese natural gas.”